

In the claims:

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An implantable system for the defibrillation of the atria of a patient's heart, said system comprising:

a first catheter configured for insertion into the right atrium of said heart without extending into the right ventricle of ~~said the~~ heart;

a first atrial defibrillation electrode carried by said catheter and ~~positioned~~ configured for positioning at the atrial septum of ~~said the~~ heart;

a second atrial defibrillation electrode which together with said first atrial defibrillation electrode provides a pair of atrial defibrillation electrodes; and

a pulse generator operatively associated with said pair of atrial defibrillation electrodes for delivering a first atrial defibrillation pulse.

2. (Currently Amended) An implantable system according to claim 1, wherein said electrode is configured to be positioned within a trans-septal puncture in ~~said the~~ atrial septum.

3. (Currently Amended) An implantable system according to claim 1, wherein said first catheter has a distal end portion and a terminal screw connected to said distal end portion, whereby said first electrode ~~may be~~ is adapted to fixed to ~~said the~~ atrial septum with said terminal screw.

4. (Currently Amended) An implantable system according to claim 1, wherein said first catheter has a distal end portion and a retractable hook connected to said distal end portion, whereby said first electrode ~~may be~~ is adapted to be fixed to ~~said the~~ atrial septum with said hook.

5. (Original) An implantable system according to claim 1, wherein said first catheter has a distal end portion and an expandable member connected to said distal end portion, with said first electrode connected to said expandable member.

6. (Currently Amended) An implantable system according to claim 1, further comprising a second catheter configured for insertion through the coronary sinus and into a vein on the surface of the left ventricle of ~~said~~ the heart, wherein said second electrode is connected to said second catheter.

7. (Original) An implantable system according to claim 1, further comprising an implantable housing having an external surface portion, with said pulse generator contained within said housing, and with said second electrode connected to said external surface portion of said housing.

8. (Original) An implantable system according to claim 1, further comprising a second catheter, with said first catheter connected to said second catheter.

9. (Original) An implantable system according to claim 8, wherein said second catheter is configured for positioning in the right ventricle or coronary sinus of ~~said~~ the heart.

10-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) An implantable system for the defibrillation or cardioversion of a patient's heart, said system comprising:

first and second defibrillation electrodes configured for positioning in operable association with the heart of ~~said~~ the subject, said first and second defibrillation electrodes when so positioned defining a gradient field in ~~said~~ the heart between said first and second electrodes and in a region to be defibrillated;

a third defibrillation electrode configured for positioning in ~~said~~ the gradient field between said first and second electrodes; ~~and~~

a pulse generator operatively associated with said first, second and third defibrillation electrodes and configured for concurrently delivering (a) a first defibrillation pulse between said first and third electrode and (b) a second defibrillation pulse between said second and third electrodes, with the voltage required for each of said first and second defibrillation pulses being less than the voltage required for a single defibrillation pulse delivered between said first and second electrodes; and

first and second transvenous catheters, wherein said first, second and third electrodes are carried by one of said first and second transvenous catheters, and wherein said first transvenous catheter is fixed to said second transvenous catheter.

40-43. (Cancelled)

44. (Original) A system according to claim 43, wherein said third electrode is an atrial septum electrode.

45. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 39, ~~further comprising first and second transvenous catheters, wherein:~~

said first and second electrodes are carried by said first transvenous catheter, said first transvenous catheter having an intermediate portion;

said third electrode is carried by said second transvenous catheter, said second transvenous catheter having a distal end portion; and

said second transvenous catheter distal end portion is connected to said first transvenous catheter intermediate portion.

46. (Original) A system according to claim 45, wherein said third electrode is an atrial septum electrode.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) ~~An implantable system according to claim 47, In an implantable system for the cardioversion or defibrillation of the atria or ventricles of a patient's heart, which system is configured to deliver at least one ventricular therapeutic pulse to the ventricles of the patient's heart through a superior vena cava electrode, the improvement comprising configuring said system to deliver at least one atrial therapeutic pulse to the atria of the patient's heart through the superior vena cava electrode, and with the energy of said atrial therapeutic pulse being not more than half the energy of said ventricular therapeutic pulse;~~

said improvement further comprising:

including a right atrial electrode, a distal coronary sinus electrode, and a coronary sinus ostium electrode with said system,

configuring said system to deliver a first therapeutic pulse to ~~said the patient's atrial atria~~ between said right atrial electrode and said distal coronary sinus electrode, and

configuring said system to deliver a second therapeutic pulse to ~~said the patient's atria~~ between said superior vena cava electrode and said coronary sinus electrode.

49. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 48, wherein said first and second therapeutic pulses to ~~said the patient's atria~~ are each not greater than 200 volts.

50. (Currently Amended) ~~An implantable system according to claim 47, In an implantable system for the cardioversion or defibrillation of the atria or ventricles of a patient's heart, which system is configured to deliver at least one ventricular therapeutic pulse to the ventricles of the patient's heart through a superior vena cava electrode, the improvement comprising configuring said system to deliver at least one atrial therapeutic pulse to the atria of the patient's heart through the superior vena cava electrode, and with the energy of said atrial therapeutic pulse being not more than half the energy of said ventricular therapeutic pulse;~~

said improvement further comprising:

including a right atrial electrode, a distal coronary sinus electrode, and a coronary sinus ostium electrode with said system,

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configuring said system to deliver a first therapeutic pulse to ~~said~~ the patient's atria between said superior vena cava electrode and said coronary sinus electrode; and

configuring said system to deliver a second therapeutic pulse to ~~said~~ the patient's atrial between said right atrial electrode and said distal coronary sinus electrode.

51. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 50, wherein said first and second therapeutic pulses to ~~said~~ the patient's atria are each not greater than 200 volts.

52-54. (Cancelled)